

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition, Prime Time takes a look at Air Force benefits, including education, childcare and subsistence, and how to get the most out of them during your career.

## News briefs

### Car wash

CFC representatives sponsor a car wash from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, at supply building 103. Donations go toward Eifel community quality-of-life programs.

### Cell phones

As of Feb. 1, motorists and cyclists risk getting a 30 DM fine for using a cell phone while driving or riding. The fine doubles to 60 DM April 1, in accordance with new motor vehicle cell phone regulations, banning the use of hand-held mobile phones. The prohibition doesn't apply when the vehicle motor is off.

The prohibition includes all control functions, including dialing, dispatching of short messages or when calling up data from the internet.

A legal option is to use a hands-free cell phone in the vehicle. One-sided cell phone headsets are also permissible.

Radios aren't included in the ban.

### Banking hours

Community Bank's new hours are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Saturday, starting Jan. 6.

### Santa in an F-16

The 22nd Fighter Squadron sponsors the arrival of Santa at 2 p.m. Saturday near hangar 67. All base personnel and their families are invited. Parking is available at 22nd Operations building 360. People attending will be escorted into the secure area.

### Cancer donations

An account has been established at Community Bank to assist Cindy Smith with the costs of medical treatments for cancer.

Smith is a six-year, second grade teacher at Spangdahlem Elementary School. She is a single parent with two daughters in college. She's currently in Nebraska receiving chemotherapy treatments.

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# Eifel Times

Vol. 34, Issue 45

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Dec. 1, 2000

### Golden Drum victory

Senior Airman Marc Gracia, 52nd Supply Squadron Fuels Supply Flight preventative maintenance team, inspects cam box components Nov. 2 during the Golden Drum 2000 competition. The flight recently took first place in the command-wide competition, which tests flight members' technical proficiency and equipment maintenance knowledge. The win marks the third time the flight has been awarded the Golden Drum "best in USAF" title, having won in 1997 and 1998. The flight didn't compete in 1999 so members could prepare for a basewide IG inspection.

Staff Sgt. Laura Sparks

## AEF-9 troops come home

### Deployed return after first wing AEF task completed

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Pam Stockton plans a "Welcome Home" celebration dinner in her mind as she tends the Bitburg fitness center. For Stockton and her daughter, Brookelle, this three-month deployment has been a little more challenging than the others her husband, Tech. Sgt. James Stockton, has gone on with 81st Fighter Squadron. Just before James deployed, Pam landed a full-time government service position with the wing services squadron and has been juggling home, work and her daughter's school schedules since.

Pam is also in an ironic situation, as it doesn't look like she'll be able to spend much time with her husband the afternoon of his return. The fitness center is severely short staffed because many of the wing's service members are part of the approximately 600 people deployed for Air Expeditionary Force nine and she's scheduled to work during the gym's busy lunch hour.

"I don't mind," Stockton said. "I'm just so glad (James) will finally be home!"

AEF-9 deployed troops return on various days and times, but the bulk of returnees are scheduled to arrive at Spangdahlem throughout the week. Arrival celebrations for all of those returning, including those who returned on varying dates, take place in

See Homecoming, Page 2

## Wing finance, contracting team heads for Top Dollar

Master Sgt. Lyle Brown believes his flight has what it takes to take be named the best in the U.S. Air Force. That's why for the past three weeks he has refused to let up on the five wing finance airmen chosen to represent U.S. Air Forces in Europe at Top Dollar 2000, at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss.

"I'm testing them over and over again in all kinds of financial and contracting scenarios, including travel pay problems and purchase legalities, anything you could think of that

would happen in a deployment situation," said Brown, non-commissioned officer in charge of financial services.

Top Dollar 2000 kicks off Thursday. It's a physically and mentally demanding biennial training competition that puts Air Force comptroller and contracting specialists in a bare-base environment in a "foreign country." It requires teams to complete scenarios typically found during real-world contingencies.

This year's competition features 13 teams

from Air Force bases around the world, including a combined 52nd comp-troller and contracting squadron team. The teams earned the trip to Gulfport by winning their respective major command and Air National Guard competitions.

Each team has seven members: five finance experts and two contingency contracting officers. Representing wing finance are Capt. Darrell Williams, team chief; Staff Sgts. Dave Smith; and Celeste Jones, and Senior Airmen Aimee Zick and Daniel Johnson. First Lt.

Mark Hansen and Tech. Sgt. Steve Turner represent wing contracting.

The 12 other teams are from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam; Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.; Charleston AFB, S.C.; Ellsworth AFB, S.D.; Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Ford Island, Pacific Ocean; Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.; Vance AFB, Okla.; Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; and U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo. (Localized Air Force Print News)

## Briefs

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Call Barbara Triplett, SES guidance counselor, at 452-6881 for more information.

### CFC

Deadline to contribute to the Combined Federal Campaign is Dec. 8. Call Lt. Jim Marsh at 452-6690 or unit CFC representatives for details.

### Tip of the Hat

The following are the standards for wearing a belt with the service uniform combinations:

■Females - With skirt or slacks with belt loops. Silver tip end of the belt extends beyond the buckle facing the wearer's right. No blue fabric shows.

■Males - Silver tip end of the belt extends beyond the buckle facing the wearer's left. No blue fabric shows. Woven cotton web or elastic, solid or woven, belt with matching silver-color metal tip and buckle with an oxidized silver or chrome finish. General officers may wear the "wing and star" design, shiny finish emblem and belt buckle.

This information and more on the standards of dress and appearance and customs and courtesies is contained in Air Force Instruction 36-2903-SABSUP 1, and AFI 36-2203.

### Firearm restrictions

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** - Air Force members living in Germany who possess privately owned firearms must comply with a new order concerning the storage and sale of the items.

Effective immediately, U.S. Air Forces in Europe members who registered, or should have registered, firearms in Germany after March 31, 1999, and whose weapons aren't covered by a German weapons possession card (Waffenbesitzkarte) must store their firearms. Owners may use their current storage location, store them in an arms room or use one of the rod and gun clubs.

Also, firearm owners may not sell or otherwise dispose of their firearms without first obtaining written approval from the U.S. Army, Europe, vehicle registry at DSN 386-7271.

The purpose of this order is to comply with German law on the possession of privately owned firearms. According to the German Ministry of the Interior, firearm registrations issued after March 31, 1999, are invalid under German law.

Steps are being taken with the German government to establish simplified procedures to enable U.S. forces members to apply for a Waffenbesitzkarte.

For now, however, military members who fail to follow this new policy are subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian employees are also subject to adverse action if they neglect to comply. (USAFE News Service)

## Homecoming

Continued from Page 1

Hangar 3.

Although it may be a disappointment to the Stockton's to not be able to celebrate the homecoming right away, rest may be just what James needs after the long flight home.

According to Master Sgt. John Johnston, base family support center readiness non-commissioned officer in charge, the best way to transition into "real life" after a long deployment is to ease back with plenty of rest.

"Homecoming offers just the initial impression," Johnston said. "The real reunion isn't instant - it takes time. After a 12-15 hour flight, deployed members often want (or need) to just go home and relax. But frequently the spouse and friends want to have a 'welcome home' celebration. The deployed member is tired and the spouse and friends think something's wrong. The real special time is usually two or three days after the deployed member's return - after they've had time to relax and get used to home again."

"Getting used to home again" may sound strange, but according to Johnston, it's just what members returning from a deployment lasting months often must do. Getting used to home includes home-life, the office and relationships.

"Deployments can be divided into three stages - predeployment, deployment and reunion. People often think the hardest part is near the beginning, just after the member deploys, but it's most often at the end stage - the reunion," Johnston said.

The level of difficulty depends on communications before, during and after the deployment, and expectations, such as the deployed member thinking everything will be the same when he or she returns home.

"The key is keeping open lines of communication," Johnston advises. "Many times deployed members think everything will return back to the way things were before they left, but they're often not. Schedules had to be readjusted, responsibilities were shifted and, sometimes, people change in their absence."

There are a number of organizations on base that can offer help and guidance when a family, office or friend is having difficulty making the transition from deployed to everyday life.

### AEF-9 Homecoming

The 52nd Fighter Wing welcomes back all its members returning from AEF-9. Though people will be returning throughout early December, everyone is encouraged to attend homecoming celebrations taking place in Hangar 3 at the following times:

- 9:15 p.m. today
- 12:25 p.m. Monday
- 8:35 a.m. Wednesday
- 3:15 p.m. Thursday

Families can tap into family advocacy, chapel or family support center resources. Base units can seek the guidance of their first sergeant and chain of command, especially those who have a few long deployments under their belt. Friends can speak to a counselor or pick up literature on the subject from the family support center readiness office. The readiness office offers all sorts of reading material about the deployment process and its stages for adults and children.

Deployments, especially those lasting months, are without a doubt one of the most difficult aspects of military life, Johnston said. They take their toll on all those who serve - active-duty members, family, friends and those left to attend the office mission. However, maintaining open lines of communication and being aware of the challenges deployments can cause can ease the hardships, making the transition to "real life" a smooth one.

For more information about deployment stages and coming home, call:

■Family support center readiness at 452-6894.

■Family advocacy on Spangdahlem at 452-8279 or on Bitburg at 453-3129.

■Spangdahlem chapel services at 452-6711 or 452-6281.

Updated AEF-9 troop return times and dates can be heard on Air Force Radio and will be listed on the base services marquees.

## Accidents

**By Tech. Sgt. Franklin McElhaney**  
52nd Security Forces Squadron  
Reports and Analysis

Overall, accidents in the wing have decreased by 27 percent since September. That's 32 fewer accidents than took place last year over the same months. However, there were still three major accidents last week.

The first accident took place at about 9 p.m. on the access road to the Oberweis Annex. An American driver negotiating a curve to the right lost control of his vehicle because of wet road conditions. The vehicle slid into a ditch and hit a tree. There were no injuries but the vehicle was disabled. When roads are wet, it's important to adjust driving speeds to maintain vehicle control. The average speed limit is designed for ideal driving

conditions.

The next accident happened on the B-50 between the Metterich and Dudeldorf exits. An American driving a VW Golf attempted to pass a slow truck. However, there was a vehicle in the oncoming lane. The American driver swerved to the left of the oncoming lane to avoid hitting the oncoming vehicle. The driver of the coming vehicle swerved to the right. The two vehicles sideswiped one another. The pass that was intended to save time — cost time and money. There were no injuries.

The last accident happened just outside the traffic circle near the base front entrance. A line of vehicles were traveling toward Spangdahlem from Binsfeld. A station wagon driver turned left, attempting a U-turn. All the

vehicles in line slowed abruptly, but one of the vehicles skid as it tried to slow down and hit the vehicle ahead of it. The driver of the vehicle that hit the vehicle ahead received a 60 DM fine from civil authorities. In Germany, driving too closely to the car ahead is considered hazardous. The minimum safe-distance driving rule is one full car length for every ten miles per hour. At forty miles an hour, that would total four car lengths.

Lastly, there were seven minor accidents totaling \$3,960 in personal cost. Half of the accidents occurred because motorists were traveling at speeds too fast for conditions. With freezing temperatures just around the corner, people need to slow down and reduce the chances of becoming a statistic.

## Officer preference worksheet offers more assignments

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** — Officers and their commanders have more choices in the assignments process now as an enhanced Preference Worksheet recently hit the field.

The Preference Worksheet, available through the Air Force Assignment System, is the key document used by officers and their commanders to state preferences and recommendations for an officer's next assignment.

"Although the layout of the worksheet has changed, the spirit and intent remain the same," said Lt. Col. Mike Gamble, chief, Assignment Programs/Procedures Division. "We still want officers to use their PW as a tool for strategic planning, not as a last minute reaction to being notified they're vulnerable for an assignment."

The new worksheet includes three more slots to list duty preferences and five more slots for location preferences.

The increase in duty preference slots comes from the addition of a Career Broadening Preference Section.

"For officers in many career fields, working outside of their Air Force Specialty Code is not a matter of 'if,' but a matter of 'when,'" Gamble said.

The new Career Broadening Section offers officers an area to identify their preferences and the drop down menus will list all of the career broadening AFSCs, very helpful to those who are not as well versed on all of the opportunities out there, Gamble said.

Creating separate sections for listing CONUS and overseas locations increases the total number of location preferences from five to 10.

Worksheets are used to match officers to assignments based on the needs of the Air Force, officer professional development and an officer's personal preferences.

"I'd recommend that an officer try to get with his or her commander sometime around the one-year-on-station point, discuss officer professional development and follow-up with a PW," Gamble said. "If that worksheet is well-crafted and strategic in nature, it should require few, if any, changes when the officer actually becomes vulnerable for reassignment."

"Individuals wishing to make changes to a PW they already have in the system, must reaccomplish the form. If an old form was on record with AFPC, the data will still be available in a "read-only" format until an enhanced format PW is completed. If an officer's old form accurately reflects their desires, they are not required to reaccomplish the form. We do however, encourage all officers to update their PW to the enhanced format as soon as is practical to take full advantage of the additional choices now available."

For more information, check out <http://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afas/afas-main1.htm>. (Air Force Print News)

### Showing gratitude through service

Airman 1st Class Dellana Perez is served a Thanksgiving meal at the Mosel Dining Hall by (front to back) Daniel Hoffman, Col. Gregg Sanders, 52nd Support Group commander, and Col. Joe B. Drane III, 52nd Medical Group commander. Group and squadron commanders, and unit first sergeants offered to serve dinner that day to show their gratitude for the work and dedication of wing airmen.

Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

## Air Force clarifies tour length

Three-months, give or take a day, more accurately measures AEFs

by Lt. Col. Bryan Holt  
Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center Public Affairs

**LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va.** — As the Air Force prepares to enter the next Aerospace Expeditionary Force cycle, Air Force officials want to ensure airmen know what to expect for the length of their deployments.

Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center officials said the 15-month AEF cycle more accurately translates into three-month rotations instead of the 90-day concept.

The clarification is designed to provide even more predictability for the upcoming second AEF cycle, which begins today.

"One of the primary purposes of the AEF is to provide predictability in the lives of our airmen and their families," said Brig. Gen. Dennis Larsen, AEF Center commander. "We're achieving this by putting the deployable Air Force members on a 15-month rotational schedule and ensuring those tasked know when they are eligible to deploy."

The AEF goal is one three-month contingency deployment every 15

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**We've heard of some Air Force members who have made leisure and family plans on the 91st day. We wanted to ensure we educate all of our Air Force members on this issue.**

— Brig. Gen. Dennis Larsen  
Air Expeditionary Force center commander

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months; however, the strict interpretation of the "90 days" terminology caused some confusion, officials said.

"We've heard of some Air Force members who have made leisure and family plans on the 91st day," Larsen said. "We wanted to ensure we educate all of our Air Force members on this issue."

For instance, in the AEF cycle, five three-month deployments cover 455 days; however, five 90-day deployments only cover 450 days. In order to accommodate this five-day difference, each AEF deployment in the area of responsibility runs 91 days. The three-month schedule doesn't include travel time or overlap with departing units, if required, Larsen

explained. "People will most likely be deployed beyond exactly 91 days," he said.

"While we've clarified the terminology to describe AEF deployments, the Air Force leadership remains committed to the three-month tour length of a standard steady-state contingency (temporary duty)," Larsen said. "This is just an additional step to educate our people on future AEF deployments."

The AEF Center, located at Langley Air Force Base, Va., plans, configures, schedules, prepares and assesses the aerospace expeditionary forces while providing stability and predictability for Air Force people and their families. (Air Force Print News Service)

# Color codes, MESO: What does it all

## Warning system alerts drivers of hazardous local road conditions, reporting delays

By Capt. Michael Jacobson  
52nd Support Group executive officer

Harsh weather and resulting hazardous road conditions during the winter usually bring some confusion for Spangdahlem members regarding the start of the duty day, and in the case of early release from work, a lot of traffic jams particularly on route B-50.

The base has a color code system to identify road conditions. Here's a look at the color codes for the Eifel region:

■ Green — Normal operations for all vehicles.

■ Amber — Roads are hazardous because of slush, snow, and ice or reduced visibility. Drivers should exercise caution.

■ Red — Road conditions are extremely hazardous. Drivers should be on the road only in emergencies. Government vehicles shouldn't be used unless absolutely necessary to meet mission requirements.

■ Black — Driving can't be conducted safely. GOVs should be used only in emergencies.

These codes are announced on American Forces Network radio and posted at the main gate for drivers to see when exiting the base.

While this color code system provides some helpful information, it's important to remember 52nd Security Forces Squadron members make routine assessments in only three areas — Spangdahlem, Bitburg and B-50. This may not offer insight as to the driving conditions on other local roads. Individual vehicle operators are expected to evaluate their particular situation, including their vehicle's road-handling capabilities and take whatever steps necessary to remain safe.

Despite rumors to the contrary, the Eifel community doesn't have a set two-hour reporting delay during bad weather conditions. The conditions on the roads in the Eifel vary and a set delay isn't appropriate for everyone. For example, people who live on base may not have any trouble getting to work on time, but people who live in outlying areas may need more time or may not be able to

### Spangdahlem Air Base's road condition color codes

**Green — Normal operations for all vehicles.**  
**Amber — Roads are hazardous because of slush, snow and ice or reduced visibility. Drivers should exercise caution.**  
**Red — Road conditions are extremely hazardous. Drivers should be on the road only in emergencies. Government vehicles shouldn't be used unless absolutely necessary to meet mission requirements.**  
**Black — Driving can't be conducted safely. GOVs should be used only in emergencies.**

even get out of their driveways.

People are expected to use good judgment and, in coordination with their supervisors, take whatever time necessary to arrive at work safely.

If weather is bad, AFN will announce, "late reporting is authorized." The term "two-hour delay" applies only to school buses. As a matter of safety, school buses must run on a set schedule so children can proceed to the bus stop at the appointed time and not be left standing in the cold waiting indefinitely. If school buses are delayed, school will not open for two hours since school staff may also not be able to make it to work. Parents must not drop their children off at the school as there may be no one there to let them in. If it appears unsafe conditions will extend beyond the pickup times for a two-hour delay, parents can expect schools to close for the day.

Short of an evacuation, the base never closes. Even in the most dire circumstances, the base will always have a number of mission-essential and emergency services operating such as the hospital emergency room, security forces, fire department, snow removal crews, wing operations center and others deemed essential by

commanders.

The terminology indicating the installation will operate with reduced services is "mission-essential services only," otherwise known as MESO. Group and squadron commanders will determine exactly which operations are MESO and will adjust work schedules accordingly.

Another area that seems to cause confusion and traffic problems for people on base is early release during deteriorating weather.

Early release is designed to allow people who must travel the farthest distance a chance to get safely home before the roads become impassable. With more than 1,100 families residing in Bitburg housing, it's not surprising the biggest challenge to base officials is preventing route B-50 from turning into the Eifel's largest parking lot.

Therefore, commanders should stagger the release of people that live in Bitburg. Here's a look at the release categories:

Release One - People living in outlying areas, greater than 10 kilometers, and those traveling B-50 to the Bitburg area with last names beginning with A through K.

Release Two - Forty-five minutes after the first release, people living in remaining off-base locations and those traveling B-50 to the Bitburg area with last names beginning with L through Z.

On-base residents remain at work until the official end of the duty day or declaration of MESO.

Commanders can authorize case-by-case deviations to the staggered release schedule, if warranted, but once released, people should not delay going home. An early release is for everyone's safety and isn't windfall "time off" for running errands.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Brad Bliss, security forces, at 452-7843 or commercial 06565-617843.

## Expeditionary fleet managers keep people off their feet

Story and photo by Airman 1st Class  
Jodi Swartzbeck  
363rd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

People at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, may have noticed an overabundance of new vehicles on base.

That's because the vehicle operations flight has been working to get many older vehicles swapped out with newer ones. They also deal with all the rental vehicles on PSAB.

Staff Sgt. Jason Redfern, 363rd Expeditionary Transportation Squadron quality assurance evaluator out of Spangdahlem Air Base, oversees about 269 vehicles.

"We have to make sure vehicles

get serviced when they have high mileage or mechanical problems," he said.

The vehicle operations flight tries to fix vehicle problems on base, so it saves the driver from going through the routine of taking it downtown, bringing it back on base and getting it searched.

"Sending it downtown sometimes hampers the mission," Redfern said. "Fixing the vehicle on base lets the driver keep the vehicle rather than go without for the time it takes to get serviced downtown."

Al's Garage takes care of more than 10,000 government vehicles on base, Redfern said.

"What we're trying to do is get a service station on base," he said. "That would help everyone in the long run with the leased vehicles."

Redfern said he gets 10 to 20 calls and e-mails a day regarding vehicle repairs and problems.

"(People call) wanting service, about problems with their vehicle, and regarding lost keys or license plates," he said.

Fleet management's job is to oversee the contract, arrange maintenance and ensure contractors do what they are supposed to do, Redfern said.

Vehicle operations provides shuttle bus service, taxi service, food transportation, U-Drive-It vehicles, wrecker services and vehicle maintenance. They also maintain the base wash rack.

Without vehicle operations and fleet management, PSAB members would be "hoofing it" to work everyday.

Staff Sgt. Jason Redfern, checks the tires on one of the 363rd Expeditionary Transportation Squadron's newly acquired vehicles.

## DOD largest energy user

Conservation laws encourage USAFE use reduction

**By Senior Master Sgt. Duane Roberson**  
U.S. Air Forces in Europe Civil Engineer

The Department of Defense is the largest user of energy in the federal government.

In fact, last year alone, DOD consumed roughly 810 trillion British Thermal Units in the creation of energy. This equates to 79 percent of the entire federal government energy usage for the year. Based on this fact, DOD should take the lead in the energy conservation.

Not conserving use of energy could eventually leave the country without the resources necessary to heat and light homes and places of work. With this possibility in mind, Congress enacted Public Law 94-163 and the Energy Policy Conservation Act of 1975 directing the president to develop and implement a 10-year energy conservation plan. This act spawned Executive Order 12003, mandating a 20-percent energy reduction in all federal facilities by 1985.

Currently, USAFE has achieved a 35-percent reduction, but future events could negatively impact the current success. To achieve the goal established by Congress and the president, everyone in USAFE needs to take a more active role in energy conservation.

Fortunately, some assistance is available. The federal government, through the efforts

of the Department of Energy, created the Federal Energy Management Program to educate every user within the government and general public on simple everyday methods to conserve energy. Furthermore, it seeks out innovative energy conservation opportunities and promotes energy awareness.

The emphasis of energy awareness is at the highest levels in government and world organizations; however, energy conservation applies to everyone as well. Simple everyday conservation methods include turning off the lights when leaving a room; reporting water leaks immediately; replacing incandescent bulbs with fluorescent bulbs; and setting thermostats no higher than 68 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter and no lower than 74 degrees in the summer.

All it takes is an active awareness on people's part followed by simple acts of energy conservation efforts. Throughout the winter, practice energy saving at work and home.

Additional information concerning Energy Awareness Month can be obtained at the FEMP web site [www.eren.doe.gov/femp/](http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp/). (USAFE News Service)

Above, a March Air Reserve Base KC-135 from the 452nd Air Mobility Wing refuels a German F-4 during the recent Local Salty Nation exercise at Spangdahlem Air Base. About 20 52nd Fighter Wing spouses and family members flew on two refueling flights offered by the Reserve. Right, two 52nd FW F-16s accompany the refueler.

Photos by Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios



## Community Mailbox

### Essay contest

The 52nd Medical Group Dental Squadron sponsors an essay contest for children in fourth through eighth grade. The topic is "My best trip to the dentist." Submit essays to Spangdahlem or Bitburg dental offices by Dec. 15. Winners will be announced Dec. 22. Call Capt. Lorraine Gallagher at 452-8193 for details.

### Fun run

The Polar Bear Fun Run takes place at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Spangdahlem fitness center. Call 452-6634 for details.

### Education center

The education center accepts spouse tuition assistance applications for Term III, which runs Jan. 15 through March 9. Applications are available at the center or in the Spangdahlem post office. Submission deadline is Dec. 15.

Call the base education office 452-6063 for more information.

### 52nd Medical Group news

■Family advocacy is considering starting an arthritis support group. People interested should call 453-3128 or 452-8279.

■A breastfeeding class takes place 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday in building 67. Call Cindy Gabehart at 453-3130 for details.

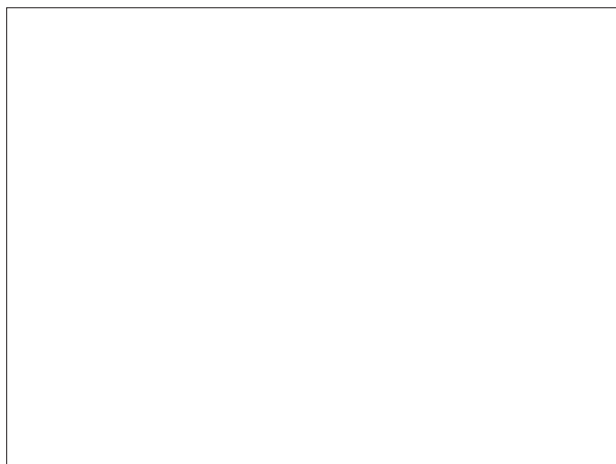
■The new mom support group meets Jan. 9 in building 67. Call Cindy Gabehart at 453-3130 for details.

■A stress management course takes place 3-4:30 p.m. Tuesday and Dec. 15 in building 130. Call 452-9355 for details.

■The Bunny Club playgroup meets 10 a.m. to noon each Thursday in building 161. Call 452-8279 for details.

### Tutors, mentors

Bitburg High School seeks volunteer tutors for the school year. Call Bernadette



Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey

### After school fun

**Child care monitor Myra Rock plays a jump rope game with Kestin Gary and Kelsey Defosse in the Spangdahlem after-school program at the base youth center. Other children line up and patiently await their turn. Registration for Eifel school-age programs during winter recess, Dec. 11-15, takes place at the base youth center, building 427, and on Bitburg in building 84. Call 452-7852 or 453-8408 for details.**

Young, school volunteer coordinator, at 453-7202 or 452-7938 for details.

### College grants

Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold college grant applications are available in the family support office on Bitburg, building 2001, and in building 307 on Spangdahlem. The grants are for children of active-duty military members, retirees and spouses of active-duty members planning to attend college in the United States. Submission deadline is March 16. Call John Costello at 453-7491 or Bill Triplett at 452-6422 for details.

### American football

The Trier Stampers American football team seeks players for the 2001 season. Season includes 10 games in the regional league and begins in June. Practice takes place 7 p.m. each Wednesday and Friday in

Trier. Call Master Sgt. Otis Hawes at 06561-941349 or Robert Korf at 06568-7864 for details.

### Holiday events

■A mini bazaar takes place today noon to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the base community activities center.

■The play, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," takes place at 7 p.m. today, at 2 p.m. Saturday and at 4 p.m. Sunday in Bitburg High School.

■The Bitburg tree lighting ceremony and parade takes place at 6 p.m. Wednesday near the chapel. A reception at the Bitburg chapel follows with holiday music and refreshments.

■The Spangdahlem tree lighting ceremony takes place at 4 p.m. Thursday at the base community activities center. A reception follows at the Saber Club with

caroling and refreshments.

■ACT-Eifel presents "A Christmas Carol" at 7 p.m. Dec. 8, 9, 15 and 16, and at 2 p.m. Dec. 10 in the Spangdahlem community activities center. Tickets, which are available at Information, Tickets and Tours, cost \$2 for adults and children 10 or older, \$1 for children 9 or younger, or \$5 for families. Call Doug Roberts at 453-9809 for details.

■The family advocacy program, Ready, Set, Grow Trier Christmas market trip takes place at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday. Call 453-3130 for details.

■The skills development center awards gift certificates for the most creative ornaments in adult and youth categories. Call 452-6841 for details.

■The Pet Spa Santa Paws program offers photographs of pets with Santa 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 16. Cost is \$4. Call 453-7362 for details.

■A trip to the Rothenburg Christmas Festival takes place Dec. 16. Call Christine Coatney 06565-942202 or Shawn Hamilton 06575-959135.

■Volunteers are needed to sing American Christmas carols at the Landscheid Christmas market Dec. 17. Call 06575-95875 after 6 p.m. for details.

■A trip to the Christmas Market in Metz, France, with the German-American club takes place Dec. 17. Cost is 30 DM per person. The bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. from the Speicher Rathaus and returns at about 7 p.m. Call Gisela Traut at 452-6172 for details.

■The American Red Cross collects quality-of-life items to be distributed to deployed troops during the holiday season. Collection boxes are located at the entrances of Spangdahlem and Bitburg base exchanges, the BXtra and the Red Cross office. A complete list of items requested is at each location. Items will be collected through the new year. The Red Cross is located in building 2001 on Bitburg. Call 453-6740 for details.

■The American Red Cross collects and delivers letters of thanks and encouragement addressed to "Any Service Member" for deployed military members.

■The Christmas concert, "Holiday Harmony," takes place at 7 p.m. Dec. 12 in the Bitburg High School cafeteria.

## Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

**Bitburg Castle**

Tonight

**Bedazzled (PG-13)**

Saturday

**Toy Story (G, 10 a.m.)**

**Toy Story II (G, 11:45 a.m.)**

**Doug's First Movie (G, 1:30 p.m.)**

**Favorite Martian (PG, 3:15 p.m.)**

**Bedazzled**

Sunday

**Hollow Man (R)**

Caine, a brilliant scientist, heads a top-secret U.S. government research project to unlock the secret of invisibility. When the formula works successfully on animals, Caine recklessly disobeys Pentagon orders and experiments on himself.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

**Godzilla 2000 (PG)**

Suddenly, a massive reptilian form obscures the window of a lonely lighthouse. Soon, all in the creature's wake is utterly destroyed and everyone can only wonder where this monstrous beast will next appear.

Thursday

**Hollow Man**

**Spangdahlem Skyline**

Tonight

**Lucky Numbers (R)**

A TV weatherman plans a scheme to get rich quick - by running a lottery scam. Even with a little help from his girlfriend, who picks the winning lotto numbers each week, things don't go exactly as planned.

Saturday

**Lucky Numbers**

Sunday

**Original Kings of Comedy (R)**

The geniuses behind the successful "Kings of Comedy" bring the house down at The Charlotte Coliseum in Charlotte, N.C. Steve Harvey, D.L. Hughley Cedric The Entertainer, and Bernie Mac reveal behind-the-scenes activities of a tour that continues to sellout arenas.

Monday

**Original Kings of Comedy**

Tuesday

**Bait (R)**

Jailed for stealing prawn, Alvin Sanders is released by a federal agent as bait to trap a dangerous criminal seeking to steal gold from the U.S. Treasury. All Alvin wants is to go straight with his girlfriend, but between the feds, the crooks and a jealous brother, Sanders might've been safer in jail.

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.  
For the most current information,

## Baking brings out Christmas spirit

German families share oven's warmth while making winter goodies

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Children, and even adults, say it smells like Christmas when the aroma of spices, baked apples or delicious cookies fills the air. At no time of the year is there more baking done than before Christmas.

There's hardly a German family that doesn't have a special recipe for some delicacy or tidbit inherited from mom, who got it from her mother, who in turn had it passed on to her by her mother.

There are all kinds of cakes and pastries eaten only during this special time of the year. This is a pity, because a delicious fruit loaf called Stollen, or a spicy gingerbread, Lebkuchen, actually taste just as good outside the cold season.

Children have a great time baking and the Christmas tradition of shaping the dough into figures is the most fun of all. Cookie cutouts of stars, Christmas trees or angels and imaginative decorations with a "Spritzbeutel" (icing tube) can all be made out of dough.

On Saint Nikolaus Day, which is Wednesday, tradition calls for a "Weckmann." The roughly shaped boy, made out of yeast dough, carries a clay pipe as his most important accessory. It's pressed into the dough somewhere between the mouth and upper body before being put in the oven. "Weckmann" can be purchased at most German bakeries.

Among the oldest methods of baking is one using carved wooden molds for ornamental cookies, such as the Lebkuchen.

Nuernberg is the center of gingerbread baking, because honey, essential for the Lebkuchen, is produced there.

The genuine, traditional Lebkuchen recipes used to be guarded like the Crown Jewels — it was said not even the bakers' assistants knew all the ingredients that went into the dough — those are entirely the bakers' secret.



Courtesy photo

**Stollen is a popular German Christmas treat.**

Despite that, however, there is a recipe:

■Ingredients: 250 grams sugar; four eggs; 50g candied, lemon peel; 60g candied orange peel; 100g peeled and sliced almonds; 250g flour; 5g cinnamon; 5g cardamom; a pinch each of ground cloves, nutmeg and ammonium carbonate; and wafers.

■For the glaze: 200g powdered sugar, 30g shortening and a little hot water.

■Preparation: Beat eggs together with sugar until foamy, add one by one other ingredients except for flour. Dissolve ammonium carbonate in tablespoon of cold milk, mix with other ingredients and add flour.

Spread dough on wafers, let it sit overnight (as cool as possible), and bake the next day for 30 minutes at 180 degrees Celsius (about 360 degrees Fahrenheit). Glaze while still warm. (Note: To convert grams to ounces, multiply by .035.)

## Out and about

■Visit a flea market, Sunday at the Piesport Moseltal hall; along the Zeltingen Mosel shore; at the Zell/Mosel city hall; in the town of Irrel; on Trier-West Hornstrasse; at the Gerolstein city hall and at the Koblenz Alte Vieh-markt hall.

■Attend "Quartett x 12" men's ensemble at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Bern-kastel-Kues Moselland hall, located on Kueser Plateau (turn right before getting to Bernkastel center.) Entry is 20 DM per person. For tickets, call the Bernkastel Tourist Information Office at 06531-54100.

■Attend a Christmas concert at 4 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Cusanus-Geburtshaus in Bernkastel-Kues. Cost is 15 DM per person. Call 06531-54100 for tickets and directions.

■Join the German-American Friendship Club on a trip to the Metz, France, Christmas market Dec. 17. Cost is 30 DM per person. The bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. from the

Speicher Rathaus, or city hall, and returns at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Gisela Traut at 452-6172.

■Attend "Spreading the Gospel," presented by the Black Gospel Singers at 8 p.m. Dec. 12 in the former Bitburg Air Base Hall 300. Call 06727-952333 for tickets.

■Attend a classical Christmas concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 8 at Trier's Roman Basilica. The concert will be performed by the Trier Bach choir.

■A jazz concert by the EuroCore takes place 8:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Trier Tuchfabrik cultural center, located on Weberbach, Wechselstrasse.

■Plan to participate in the 41st International Nikolaus March of Nieder-kail Sunday. The event is a 10-kilometer walk through the Kailbachtal valley.

■Reserve your ticket now for this year's Christmas concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 16 by the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band

at the Bitburg Edith-Stein School. Entry is 12 DM for adults or 8 DM for children and students. Members of the Bitburg Cultural Society pay 10 DM to get in. To reserve a ticket, call the Bitburg Cultural Society at 06561-6001-144 or 145 or the Bitburg tourist information office at 06561-9434-0.

■"Christmas Moments" comes to the Bitburg Edith-Stein School at 8 p.m. Dec. 23. Tickets are 48 DM and can be obtained at 06561-6001-144 or 145.

■Enjoy "Extraordinary Living Styles," now through Dec. 10 in the small Dudeldorf art pavilion. Displays open 2-6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

■The Eifel Wanderers invite people to join them on a local volksmarch Sunday. Meet at Spang-dahlem Middle School at 9 a.m. and caravan to Landscheid to take part in a 10-kilometer Nikolaus volksmarch. For details, call

David Westwood at 06561-18758.

■Get your holiday shopping done in Poland with this express trip leaving Dec. 8 and returning on Dec. 10. Cost is \$45. Call 0175-8156493 to register.

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Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following trips in December. Call the Spang-dahlem community center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg annex community center at 453-7120 for details.

■Valkenburg Christmas market, Dec. 9, \$29 for adults and \$25 for children ages 3-12, departs Spang-dahlem at 8:30 a.m. and Bitburg at 9 a.m.

■Nuernberg Christmas market, Dec. 9, \$39 for adults and \$35 for children ages 3-12, departs Spang-dahlem at 6:30 a.m. and Bitburg at 7 a.m.

■Strasbourg Christmas market, Dec. 16, \$30 for adults and \$28 for children ages 3-12, departs Spang-dahlem at 7 a.m. and Bitburg at 7:30 a.m.

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The outdoor recreation program sponsors the following trips in December. Call 452-7176 for details.

■Indoor wall-climbing trip Saturday. Gear and transportation are included in the \$25 per person fee. Minimum age to participate is 14.

■Christmas caves of Valkenburg, Holland, Dec. 9. Transportation and castle entry are included in the \$20 per person price. Minimum age to participate is 18.

■Underground mountain biking and spa trip Dec. 10. Transportation, cave entry, helmet and light rental are all included in the cost of \$30 for biking only or \$50 with two hours in the spa.

■Hike Rothenburg Dec. 16 and 17. Transportation, guided hike, night watch-man's tour and one-night lodging are included in the \$65 per person price. Minimum age to participate is 18.